

## Astrid Harvey

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**From:** Nigel McGurk <nmcgurk@blenheimstrategic.com>  
**Sent:** 20 May 2022 09:44  
**To:** Community Development  
**Cc:** Roger File; Ashley Maltman  
**Subject:** Woodstock Neighbourhood Plan

With the exception of one fundamental flaw re: Policy WNDP1, Blenheim supports the Woodstock Neighbourhood Plan.

There is one key change that needs to be made to ensure that the Local Green Space Policy meets the basic conditions by having regard to national policy and advice:

As worded, Policy WNDP1 introduces a policy approach that conflicts with the management of land within the Green Belt. It introduces a new approach to managing land within the Green Belt. This departure from national policy contradicts Paragraph 103 of the NPPF which is explicit in stating that:

*"Policies for managing development within a Local Space should be consistent with those for Green Belts."*

The wording of Policy WNDP1 demonstrates a misunderstanding of national policy, resulting in a failure to meet the basic conditions.

The Policy confuses and fails to grasp the fundamental matter of when exceptional circumstances and very special circumstances should be applied. The Policy misapplies national policy. This results in an entirely unworkable policy. It goes on to introduce vague requirements, all within an overall flawed and unmanageable/unimplementable *"exceptional circumstances"* approach.

Consequently, as worded, Policy WNDP1 is directly contrary to - and does not have regard to - national policy, as set out in Chapter 13 of the Framework.

The Policy does not meet the basic conditions, cannot be managed from a development control perspective and if made in its current form, would result in a Neighbourhood Plan that fails to meet statutory requirements.

It is strongly recommended that the Policy be re-worded to one which meets the Neighbourhood Plan's aims, but that crucially, also meets the basic conditions. Something along the lines of:

*"delete the text after the list of Local Green Space designations and replace with "Development within designated areas of Local Green Space will be managed in a way that is consistent with Green Belt policy."*

This would remedy the failure to meet the basic conditions and ensure that Woodstock's green spaces are protected from inappropriate development. Note that, as worded, the Neighbourhood Plan would offer no protection as Policy WNDP1 is fundamentally flawed.

**Nigel McGurk**  
Head of Portfolio

# BLenheim

STRATEGIC PARTNERS

**T:** 01993 810500 | **M:** 07479 681280

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